

Application No.: 10/009353

Case No.: 55728US002

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) Use of a mineral oil in a fluoroelastomer composition comprising a fluoroelastomer to improve the flow of said composition during processing to form an article therefrom and/or to improve the release from a mold of a vulcanized article produced from said fluoroelastomer composition.
2. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 1 wherein said mineral oil is present in said fluoroelastomer composition in an amount of 0.25 to 15 parts by weight for 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.
3. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 1 wherein said mineral oil is at least partially adsorbed on a carrier.
4. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 3 wherein said carrier comprises particles capable of adsorbing said mineral oil.
5. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 4 wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of carbon black and inorganic particles.
6. (Withdrawn) Use according to any of the previous claims wherein said fluoroelastomer composition further comprises a wax.
7. (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 6 wherein said wax is a vegetable wax and is contained in said fluoroelastomer composition in an amount of less than 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.

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8. (Withdrawn) Method of making a fluoroelastomer article comprising the steps of blending a fluoroelastomer with a mineral oil and, optionally, a wax to provide providing a fluoroelastomer composition comprising a fluoroelastomer and a mineral oil and processing said composition to form said fluoroelastomer article by means of a processing technique selected from the group consisting of extrusion, injection molding, transfer molding, compression molding and combinations thereof.
9. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 8 wherein said mineral oil is present in said fluoroelastomer composition in an amount of 0.25 to 15 part by weight for 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.
10. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 8 wherein said mineral oil is at least partially adsorbed on a carrier.
11. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 10 wherein said carrier comprises particles capable of adsorbing said mineral oil.
12. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 11 wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of carbon black and inorganic particles.
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 8 [[13]] wherein said wax is a vegetable wax and is contained in said fluoroelastomer composition in an amount of less than 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.
15. (Withdrawn) Method according to any of claims 8 to 14 wherein said fluoroelastomer composition comprises a vulcanization system and wherein said method includes the step of vulcanization.

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16. (Currently amended) Fluoroelastomer composition comprising a fluoroelastomer blended with [[and]] a mineral oil, said composition being free of vegetable wax or containing vegetable wax in an amount of less than 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer, optionally wherein at least part of said mineral oil is adsorbed on a carrier, and optionally wherein said composition further comprises a vulcanization system.

17. (Original) Fluoroelastomer composition according to claim 16 wherein said fluoroelastomer composition is free of any wax or contains a total amount of vegetable and non-vegetable wax of less than 2 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) Fluoroelastomer composition according to claim 16 or 17 [[18]] wherein said carrier comprises particles capable of adsorbing said mineral oil.

20. (Original) Fluoroelastomer composition according to claim 19 wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of carbon black and inorganic particles.

21. (Currently amended) Fluoroelastomer composition according to any of claims 16 to 20 claim 16 or 17 wherein said mineral oil is comprised in the fluoroelastomer composition in an amount of 0.25 to 15 parts by weight for 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) Method of making a fluoroelastomer composition having improved flow characteristics when processed, said method comprising the steps of blending together a mineral oil and a fluoroelastomer to obtain a fluoroelastomer composition that is free of vegetable wax or alternatively to blend together a mineral oil, a fluoroelastomer and a vegetable wax to obtain a fluoroelastomer composition that contains a vegetable wax in an amount of less than 2 parts by weight for 100 parts by weight of fluoroelastomer.

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24. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 23 wherein said mineral oil is adsorbed on a carrier when blended with said fluoroelastomer.
25. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 24 wherein said carrier comprises particles capable of adsorbing said mineral oil.
26. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 25 wherein said particles are selected from the group consisting of carbon black and inorganic particles.